

period in the State of Bihar: In addition, two more schemes with a capacity of 1.254 million tonnes have also been approved for the manufacture of cement in the large sector in the State.

**Drilling in East Champaran District,
Bihar**

8835. SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas and oil like matter is oozing from certain areas on the bank of river Arua in village Govindpur Block Gorasahan, East Champaran district, Bihar;

(b) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission personnel had visited the site about a year and half back; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the findings of the ONGC team in this regard and whether Government have taken any steps for tapping of gas and oil there?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c). On information received about the possibility of hydrocarbons in Arua river bed of East Champaran District, Bihar, the site was visited by a geologist of ONGC in August 1986. A shallow bore hole was dug at the spot and core samples were collected. The samples, on laboratory analysis, did not indicate presence of hydrocarbons. In view of negative result no further action was taken.

[*Translation*]

**Rural Electrification in Etah District of
Uttar Pradesh**

8836. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Etah district of Uttar Pradesh where electric poles have been installed for years which still remain without electricity under the rural electrification scheme; and

(b) the action proposed to be taken to electrify these villages?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) As per available information at the end of February, 1990, out of the 1510 inhabited villages in Etah district of Uttar Pradesh, 1056 villages have been electrified.

(b) District-wise targets for village electrification are finalised at a State level based on the availability of funds and interse priority fixed by the Government.

**Promotions in International Airports
Authority of India**

8837. DR. BENGALI SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some employees in the International Airports Authority of India have been given relaxations in experience while promoting them to the higher grades recently;

(b) if so, the number of such employees;

(c) whether such relaxation has been given to employees belonging to SC/ST communities also; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Such relaxation has been

allowed recently in respect of two employees, of which one belongs to Scheduled Caste.

(d) Does not arise.

High Power Committee for Khadi and Village Industries Employees

8838. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a high power committee to look into the demands and grievances of the employees of various voluntary organisations engaged in Khadi and village industries in the country;

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee;

(c) when the Committee is likely to submit its report; and

(d) the details of benefits Government propose to give to khadi and village industries to boost their production and sale, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c). The Government have decided to appoint a High Powered Committee to look into the grievances of the employees of various voluntary organisation engaged in KVI Sector in the country. The composition and the terms of reference are under finalisation.

(d) For the promotion of khadi and village industries to boost the production and sales, the following facilities have been provided:—

- (1) Provision of funds at low rate of interest,
- (2) Subsidy towards interest,
- (3) Rebate on sale of Khadi and Polyvastra,
- (4) Purchase preference to V.I. products,
- (5) Excise and customs duty exemption,
- (6) Preferential treatment in regard to supply of raw material,
- (7) Assistance for Research and Development products,
- (8) Assistance in marketing products.

New Airlink facilities in Tamil Nadu

8839. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals for providing new Airlink facilities in the southern part of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). At present there are no plans to provide new airlinks in the southern part of Tamil Nadu.

Direct Express Trains to Kanyakumari

8840. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: